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BRIGHTEST DAY

GREEN LANTERN

"Simply put, Doug Mahnke is one of the best comic book artists putting pencil to paper today."
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GEOFF JOHNS DOUG MAHNKE

GREEN LANTERN

BRIGHTEST DAY

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Geoff Johns
Writer

THE NEW GUARDIANS

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GREEN LANTERN: BRIGHTEST DAY

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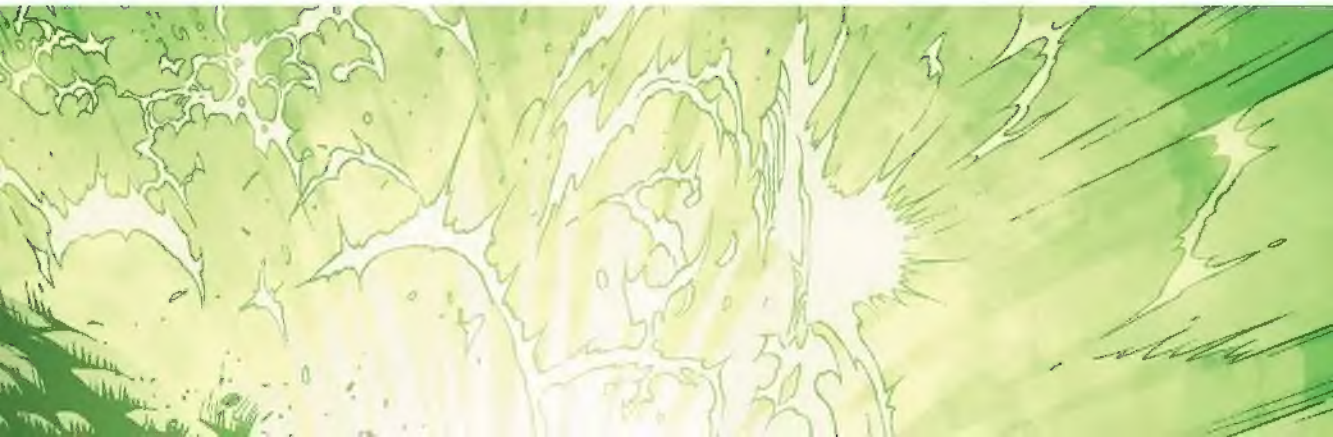
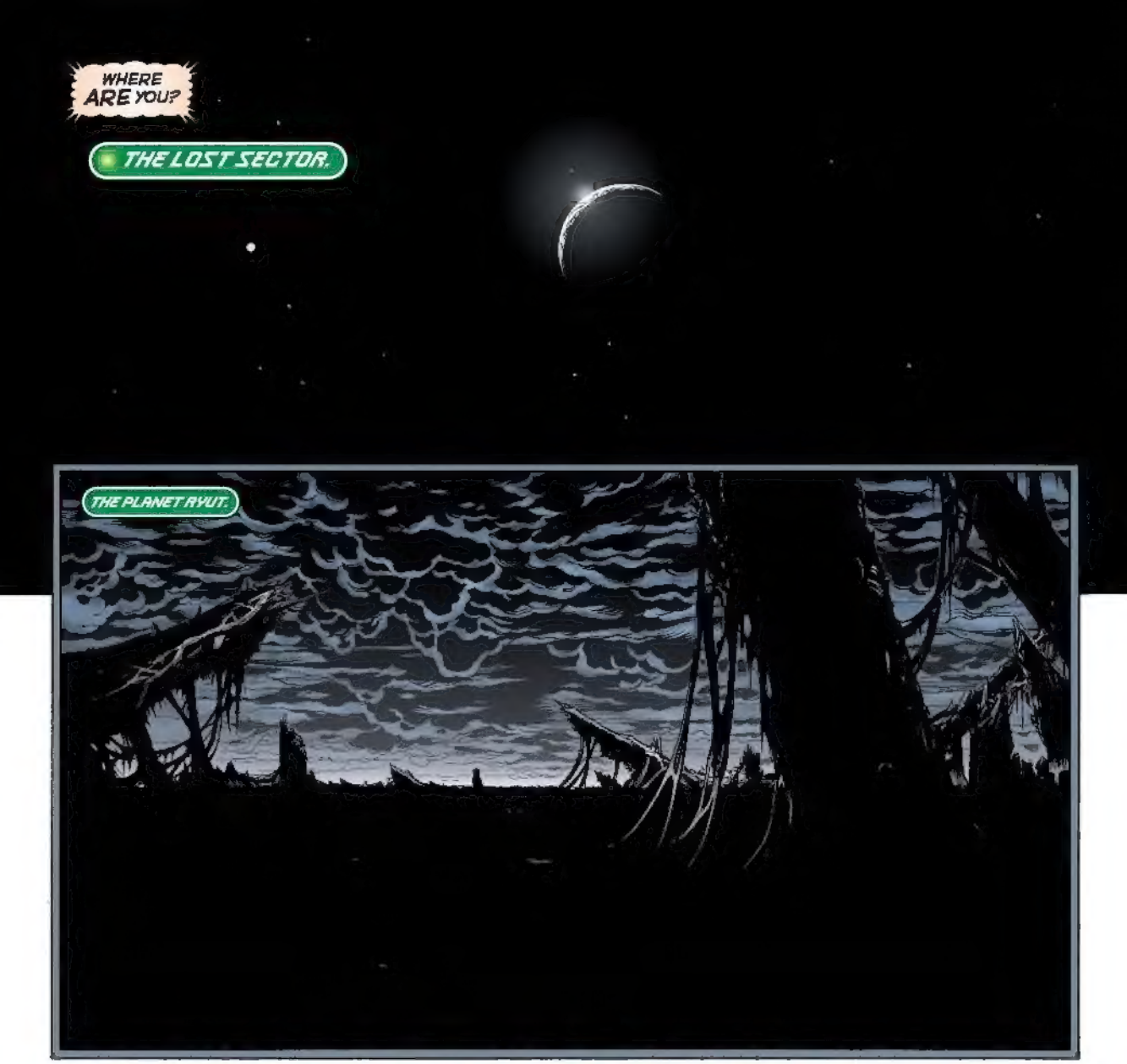
GREEN LANTERN 53 Cover by Doug Mahnke & Randy Mayor

THE NEW GUARDIANS
CHAPTER ONE

Doug Mahnke Pencils
Christian Alamy, Keith Champagne, Mark Irwin & Doug Mahnke Inks



TERREBONNE PARISH, LOUISIANA.
BELLE REVE PRISON.
I'VE TASTED GREEN LANTERN'S THOUGHTS!
I HAVE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
AND WHEN I DID IT WAS ME WHO GOT THE EMERALD RING AND LOVELY GIRLS!
ME WHO FLEW JETS ACROSS THE SKY AND SAVED THE UNIVERSE FROM THE BLACKEST NIGHT!
BUT, OH, IT WASN'T REALLY ME. ONLY THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES OF HIS GREAT ADVENTURES. BECAUSE I'M NOT HAL JORDAN.
I'M NOT HANDSOME.
THERE IS MORE TO EXISTENCE THAN HAL JORDAN, HECTOR HAMMOND.
OH, LEAVE ME ALONE!
YOU'RE AFRAID.
GOOD.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHO ARE YOU?


WHERE ARE YOU?
THE LOST SECTOR.

THE PLANET RYUT.

KRRAKKKOMM

THE GUARDIANS FEARED THE PROPHECY OF THE BLACKEST NIGHT SINCE THE DAYS THEY FIRST BEGAN FORGING THE GREEN POWER OF WILL.
BUT NOW THE BLACKEST NIGHT IS OVER.
THE FUTURE IS UNWRITTEN.

THE UNIVERSE HAS ENDURED ITS HORRIBLE NIGHT AND ENTERED A NEW DAY.
THE BRIGHTEST DAY.
MY DAY.

I WROTE THAT IN THE OATH FOR A REASON.
LONG AGO.
SO LONG AGO.

BEFORE THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
BEFORE THE MANHUNTERS.
KFFF.
I PROTECTED THE UNIVERSE UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYES OF THE GUARDIANS.
I WILL DO SO AGAIN.

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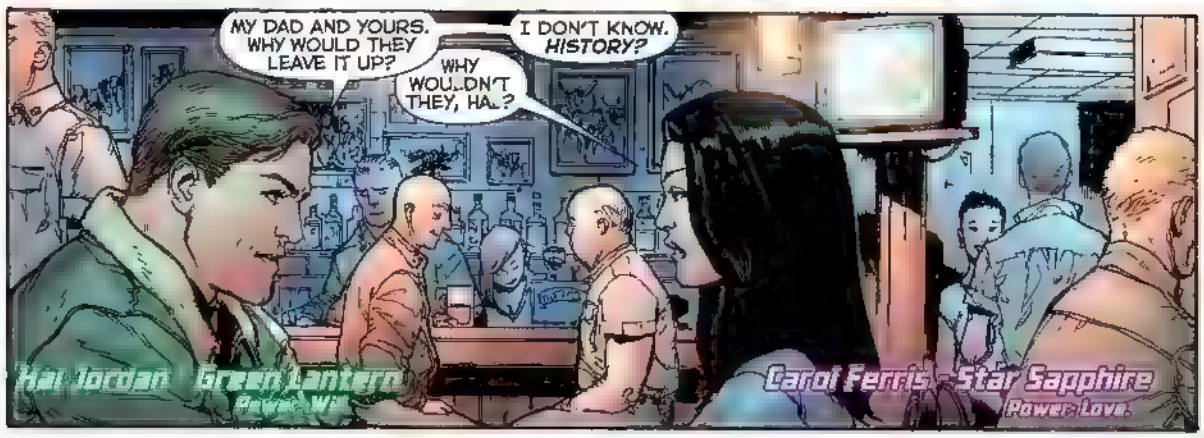
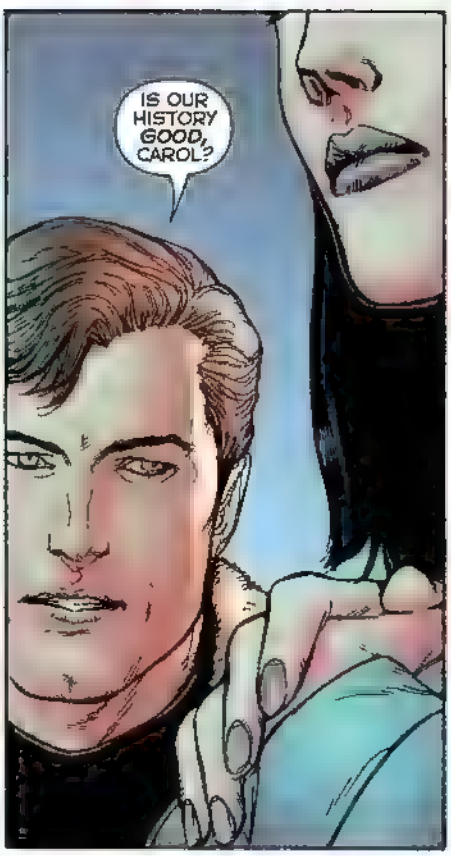
FERRIS AIR

THEY STILL HAVE THAT PICTURE UP.


MY DAD AND YOURS. WHY WOULD THEY LEAVE IT UP?
WHY WOULDN'T THEY, HAL?
I DON'T KNOW. HISTORY?
Hal Jordan - Green Lantern
Power: Will
Carol Ferris - Star Sapphire
Power: Love

THIS WALL IS FOR REMEMBERING HISTORY. GOOD HISTORY.
IT ALMOST HAS AS MUCH HISTORY AS US.


IS OUR HISTORY GOOD, CAROL?

SOME OF IT.
HAL...
YOU ASKED ME TO GET A DRINK, AND TO BE HONEST, AFTER FIGHTING THROJGH AN ARMY OF BILLIONS OF UNDEAD BLACK LANTERNS IN A *VIOLET SWIMSUIT* AND SPENDING THE LAST DAY CLEANING UP GRAVEYARDS WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE I COULD USE MORE THAN ONE...
...BUT IF WE'RE JUST GOING TO SIT HERE...
WE'RE *GOOD* AT A LOT OF THINGS, BUT I GUESS *TALKING'S* NEVER BEEN ONE OF THEM.
NOT WHEN THERE'S A *TABLE* BETWEEN US.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
"ON YOUR MARK. GET SET--"

GO!
C'MON, SAPPHIRE.
IF YOU WERE FLYING ANY SLOWER YOU'D GO BACK IN TIME.
HIGHBALL
WOULD THAT BE SUCH A BAD THING, HIGHBALL?
SAPPHIRE

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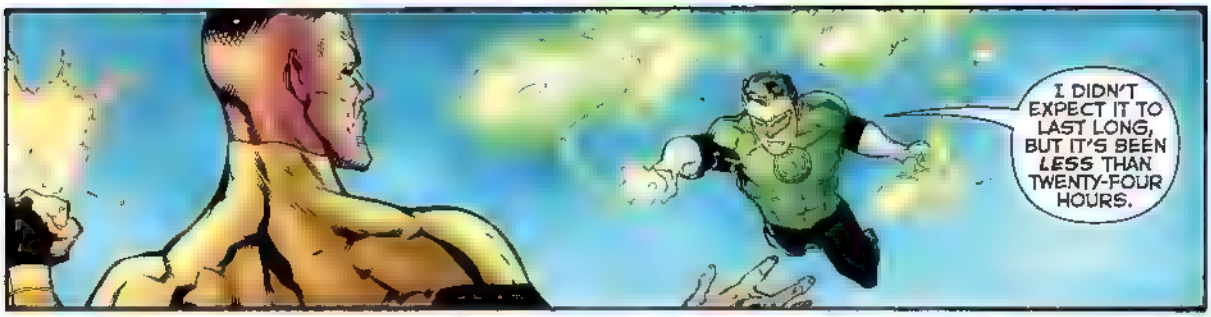
YOU TELL ME, SAPPHIRE.
TELL YOU WHAT?
WHEN WE WERE BATTLING THE SPECTRE YOU WERE THE ONE THAT KISSED ME, REMEMBER?
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT DIE.
YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY, HAL? THAT I WISH WE WERE MARRIED WITH A DOZEN KIDS?
I'D BLOW MY BRAINS OUT. NO OFFENSE.
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT, HIGHBALL?
DO YOU LOVE ME?
BOOOM!
BOOOM!

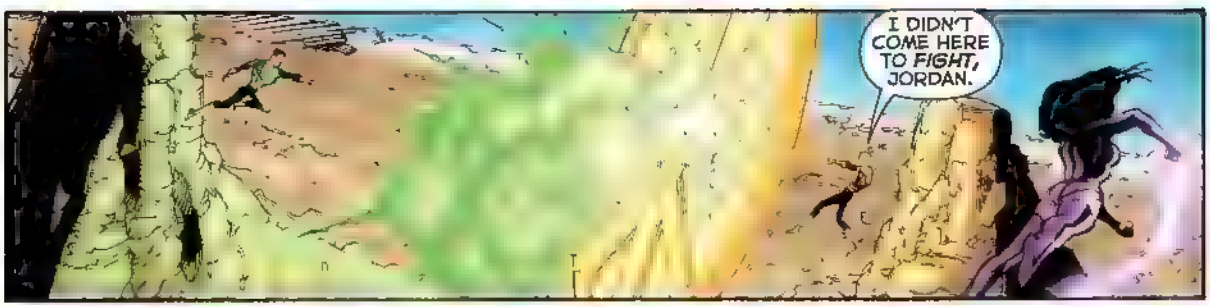
YOU'RE STILL SEEING SOMEBODY, AREN'T YOU? THE PILOT FROM EDWARDS... COWGIRL.
YEAH. COWGIRL.
SO WHY ARE YOU FLYING UP HERE WITH ME?
WHAT THE HELL?
VEER! VEER! VEER!
WE'VE GOT INCOMING.
AND IT'S INCOMING FAST.
HIGHBALL? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
PLAYING CHICKEN.
IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US!
PULL UP, HAL!
HAL--!

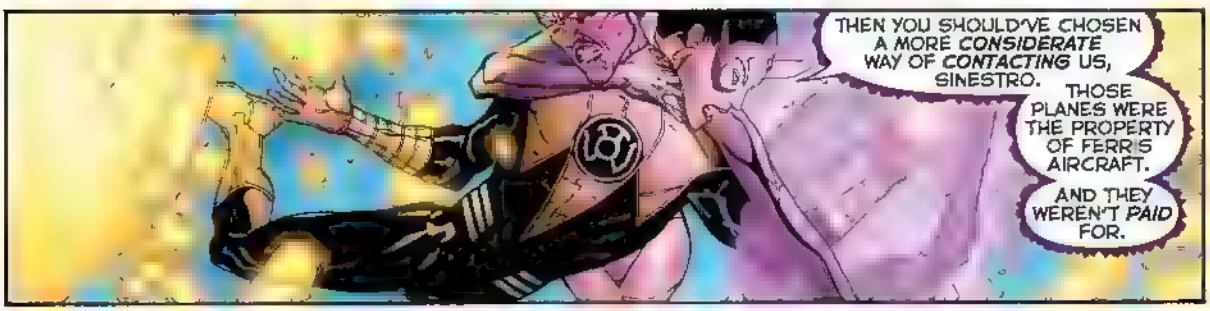
HAL?!
OH--

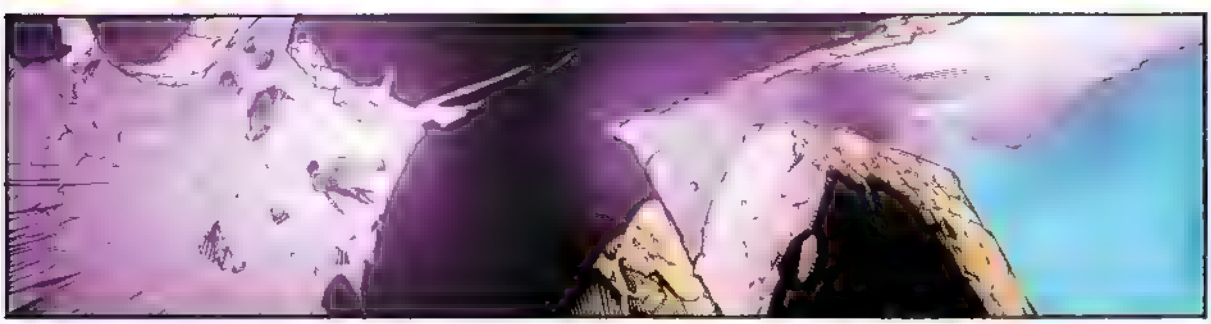
I HOPE I WASN'T INTERRUPTING ANYTHING IMPORTANT.
SINESTRO
Power: Fear.

"WE AGREED ON AN INTERGALACTIC *TRUCE* AFTER THE CLEAN-UP, SINESTRO."


I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO LAST LONG, BUT IT'S BEEN *LESS* THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

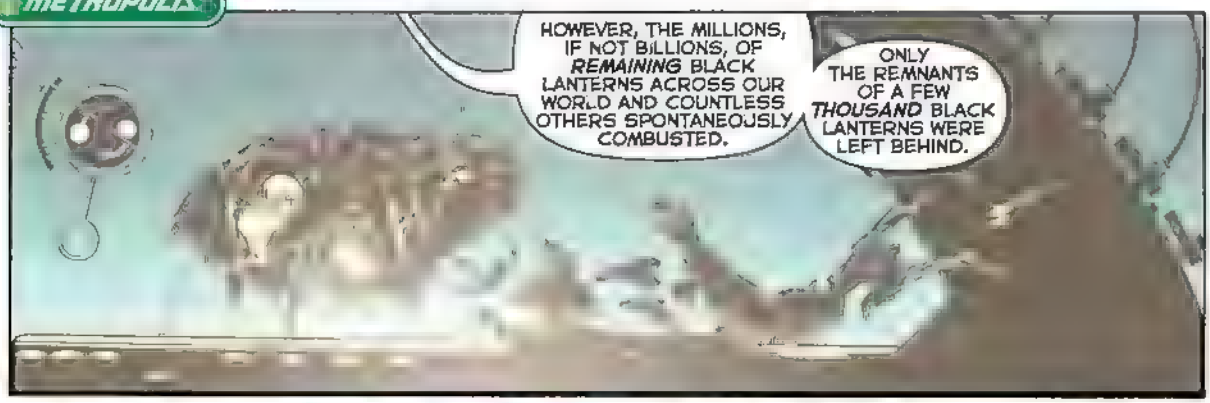

I DIDN'T COME HERE TO *FIGHT*, JORDAN.

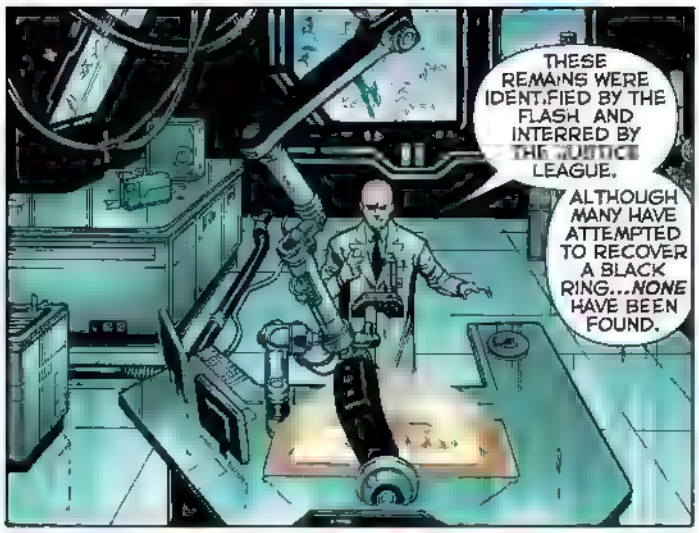

THEN YOU SHOULD'VE CHOSEN A MORE *CONSIDERATE* WAY OF *CONTACTING* US, SINESTRO.
THOSE PLANES WERE THE PROPERTY OF FERRIS AIRCRAFT.
AND THEY WEREN'T *PAID* FOR.

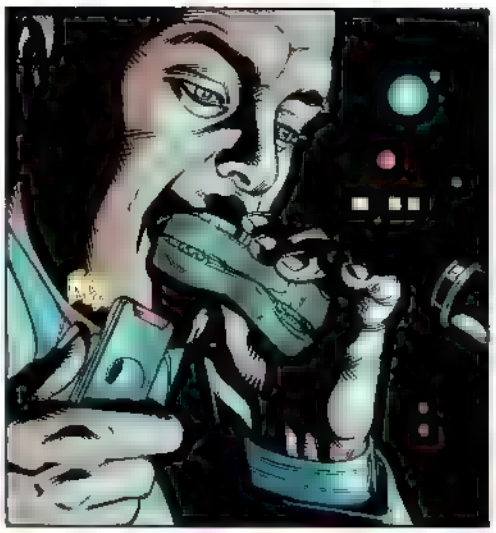


I'M STILL IN WONDER OF THE DESIRE TO FLY SUCH PRIMITIVE MACHINERY WHEN ONE WIELDS A POWER RING. I HAD THOUGHT IT WAS A DEFECT IN JORDAN ALONE, BUT IT APPEARS I WAS WRONG--
--STAR SAPPHIRE.
YOU WERE INSISTENT THAT YOUR ALLIANCE WITH THE LOVE-OBSESSED ZAMARONS AND THEIR FEMALE SOLDIERS WAS TEMPORARY.
IT IS.
YET YOU STILL WEAR THEIR RING.
AND I'M GOING TO ASSUME YOU KNEW CAROL STILL HAD IT WHEN YOU FLEW THROUGH HER PLANE.
ASSUME AWAY IF IT MAKES YOU MORE OPEN TO CONVERSATION.
THE TRUCE STILL STANDS.
AS MUCH AS I'D RATHER HAVE MY OWN EYEBALLS SUCKED OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS BY THE SPIDER GUILD, I NEED YOU, JORDAN.
AFTER SCOURING THIS WORLD, I'VE LOCATED THE ENTITY...

"...AND IT'S ASKING FOR YOU."
ALL RIGHT, RUSSELL... LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.
"...SEVERAL OF THE BLACK LANTERNS, MOST NOTABLY AQUAMAN AND MARTIAN MANHUNTER, WERE FULLY RESTORED AND RESURRECTED BY THE AS YET UNIDENTIFIED WHITE LIGHT THAT TRIGGERED NEKRON'S DESTRUCTION."


HOWEVER, THE MILLIONS, IF NOT BILLIONS, OF *REMAINING* BLACK LANTERNS ACROSS OUR WORLD AND COUNTLESS OTHERS SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTED.
ONLY THE REMNANTS OF A FEW *THOUSAND* BLACK LANTERNS WERE LEFT BEHIND.


THESE REMAINS WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE FLASH AND INTERRED BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
ALTHOUGH MANY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO RECOVER A BLACK RING...*NONE* HAVE BEEN FOUND.



BUT I *WANT* ONE.

I'M STILL *HUNGRY.*

ORANGE LANTERN?
BEFORE I RETURN TO MY WORLD--
--I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT *YOURS*. YOU SAID EVERYONE HERE IS LIKE *ME*. AND LIKE *YOU*. THEY *ALL* WANT SOMETHING. *LOTS* OF *SOMETHINGS!*
PLEEZE
HEE!
SO *TELL* ME, LEX LUTHOR OF EARTH. *WHAT* IS THE MOST *VALUABLE* THING ONE CAN POSSESS ON *YOUR* PLANET?!
POWER.

I HAVE POWER, BALDY!

WHAT ELSE?
TELL ME BEFORE MY ORANGE LANTERNS STEAL YOUR INNARDS!

LAND.

LAND?
WHAT IS... LAND?
I WANT SOME!

SAINT WALKER
BLUE LANTERN
Power: Hope.
JENNIFER HANSON OF EARTH.
WE CONDEMN THE DESECRATION OF YOUR BODY, BUT WE CONDONE THE ELEVATION OF YOUR SPIRIT AND HOPE YOU EMBRACE THE LIGHT AS IT EMBRACES YOU...
I SENSE YOUR HUSBAND AND SON. TODAY, RYDER HAS SOCCER PRACTICE AND HIS FATHER WATCHES WITH PRIDE. THEY BOTH STILL LOVE YOU AND THEY BOTH STILL MISS YOU.
I KNOW IT IS A LONELY PATH TO WALK WITHOUT ONE'S FAMILY, JENNIFER HANSON, BUT IT IS ONLY FOR NOW.
ALL WILL BE WELL.
HERBERT JACOBS OF EARTH.
IN LOVING MEMORY
WE CONDEMN THE DESECRATION OF YOUR BODY, BUT WE CONDONE THE ELEVATION OF YOUR SPIRIT AND HOPE YOU EMBRACE THE LIGHT AS IT EMBRACES YOU...

I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO EARTH.
YOU HAVE HEARD THE SITUATION, ATROCITUS. YOU BOTH HAVE.
AND YOU KNOW OF THE VOW I HAVE MADE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE GUARDIANS AND THEIR GREEN LANTERN CORPS.
YOU KNOW I WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS AND THEIR GUARDIANS ARE DEAD.
BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT LIFE IS AS IMPORTANT TO YOU AS IT IS TO US.
ATROCITUS
RED LANTERN
Power: Rage
YOU ASK ME TO STAVE MY ATTACK
SURELY YOU REALIZE HOW DESPERATE I AM TO BRING US TOGETHER.
PLEASE. I NEED AN ANSWER.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT RED LOBSTER OVER THERE...

...BUT I'M IN.
'COURSE YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO, GANTHET, IF WE GO THROUGH WITH THIS--
--JORDAN AND I ARE DONE BEIN' FRIENDS. FOR GOOD.
YES. I KNOW.
A WHITE LANTERN?
"WHERE'D A WHITE LANTERN COME FROM?"
DO NOT CROSS

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THE NEW GUARDIANS
CHAPTER TWO

Doug Mahnke Pencils
Christian Alamy, Tom Nguyen, Keith Champagne & Doug Mahnke Inks

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NEW YORK
RECTOR AND GREENWICH
"HAND OVER THE RINGS!"
RECTOR STREET STATIO
THE E-LINE
YOU HEAR ME, OLD MAN? I DON'T CARE HOW LONG YOU BEEN WEARIN' 'EM.
YOURS TOO, LADY!
BETTER BE SOMETHIN' WORTH SOMETHIN' IN HERE, SUIT.
YOU ALL CAN CATCH THE NEXT TRAIN. THIS ONE IS OURS.
HA-HA-HA-HA!
OPEN YOUR EARS AND YOUR WALLETS!
HEY, CUTIE.
G-G-GET OFF ME--!

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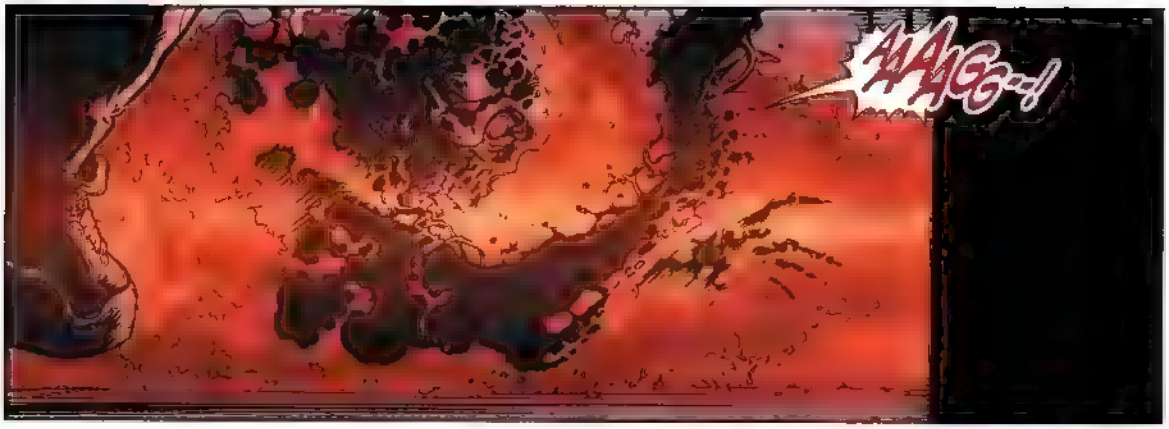
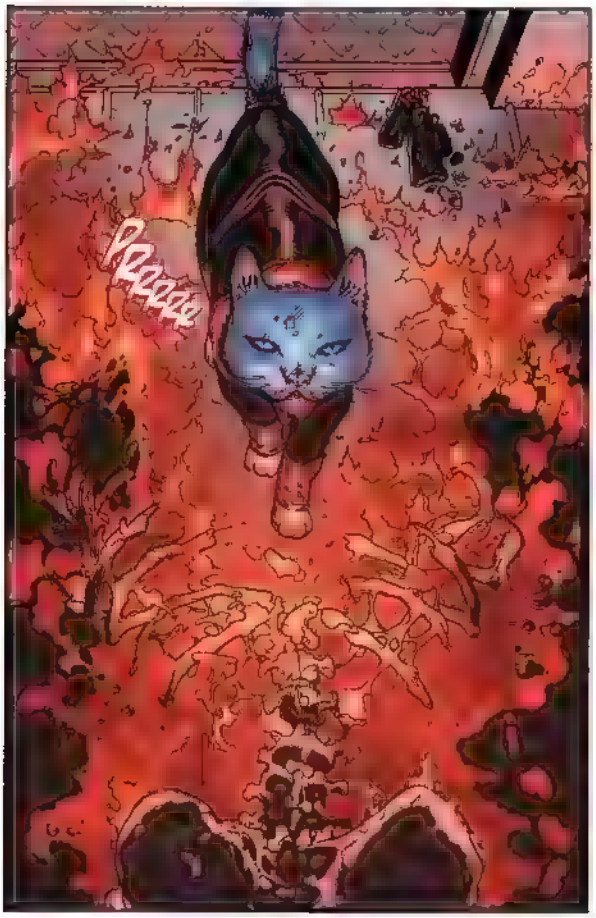
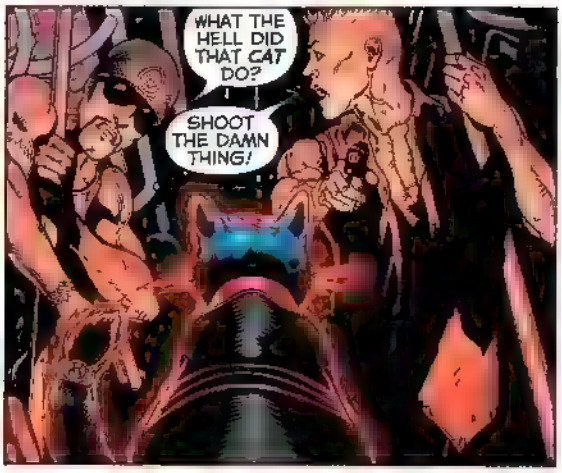
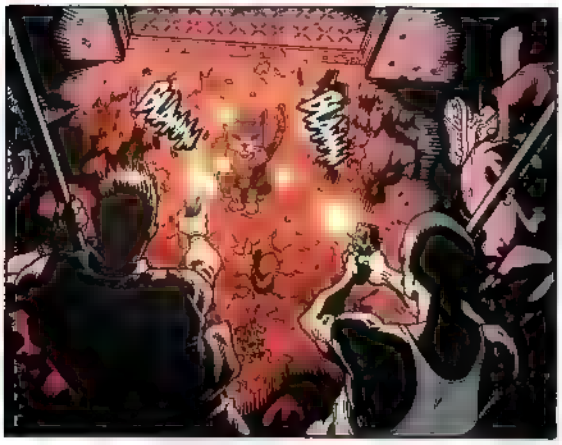
KRAFFF









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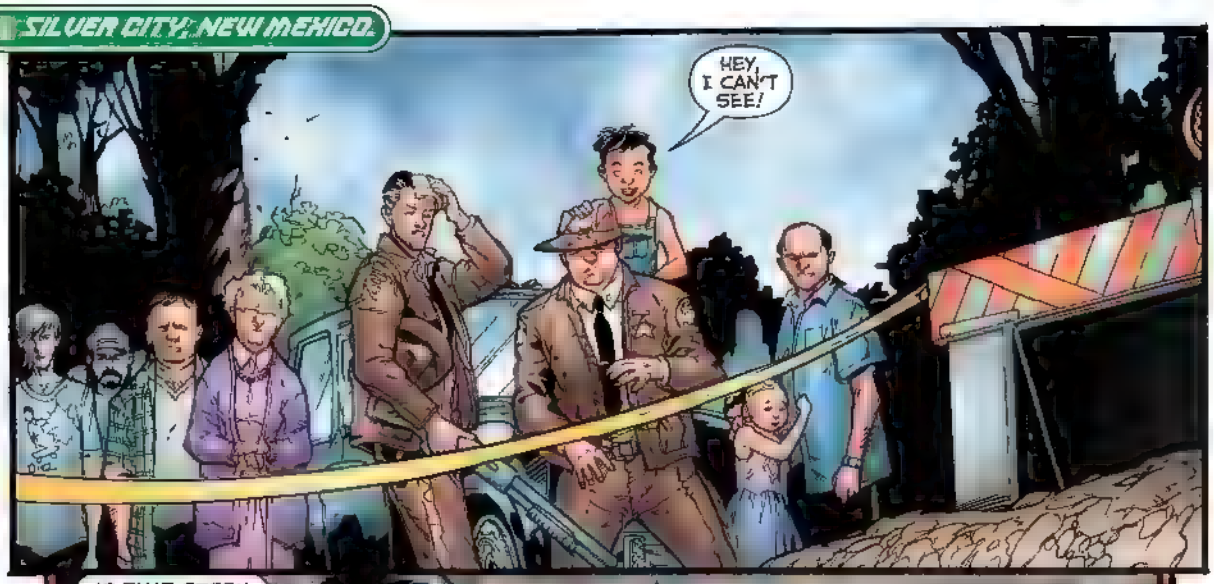
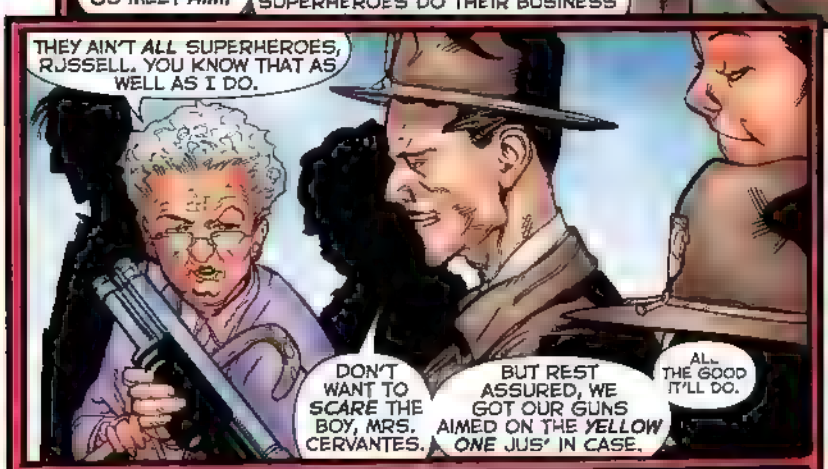
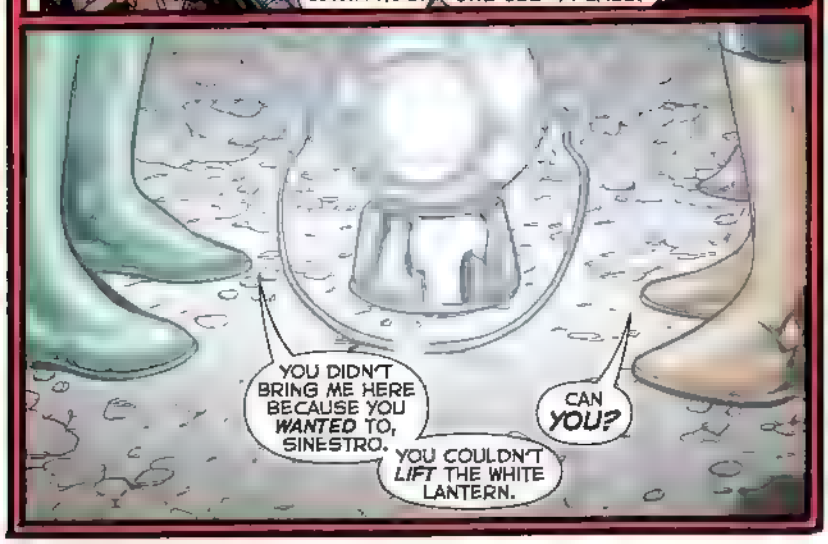

HEY, I CAN'T SEE!

IS THAT GREEN LANTERN, SHERIFF HAMM?
SURE IS, ALEX.
WELL, GOSH, I WANNA GO MEET HIM!
YOU STAY PUT, YOUNGSTER, AND LET THEM SUPERHEROES DO THEIR BUSINESS


THEY AIN'T ALL SUPERHEROES, RUSSELL. YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I DO.
DON'T WANT TO SCARE THE BOY, MRS. CERVANTES.
BUT REST ASSURED, WE GOT OUR GUNS AIMED ON THE YELLOW ONE JUS' IN CASE.
ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO.


YOU DIDN'T BRING ME HERE BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO, SINESTRO.
YOU COULDN'T LIFT THE WHITE LANTERN.
CAN YOU?

NNNF!
IT WON'T BUDGE.
SO IT'S THE SWORD IN THE STONE?
WHAT IN THE GUARDIANS' UNSPOKEN NAMES IS THE SWORD IN THE STONE?

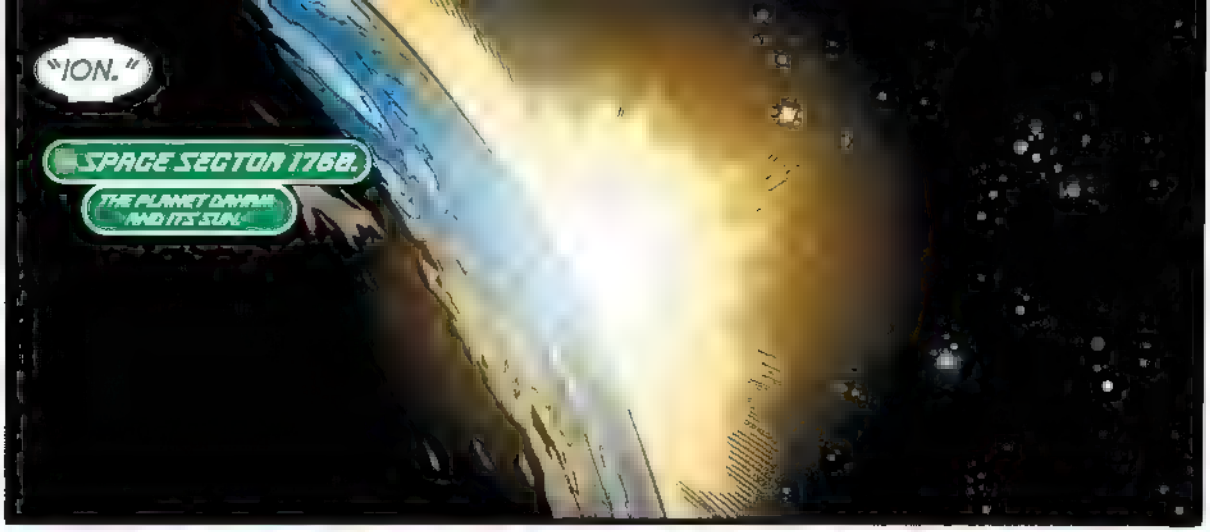
A SWORD THAT COULD ONLY BE LIFTED BY THE TRUE KING OF THE LAND.
SO IF THIS *WHITE LANTERN* IS THE *SWORD*--
--WHERE'S *KING ARTHUR?*
MAYBE IT'S LOOKING FOR A *QUEEN?*
MAYBE.
WHILE YOU TWO ARE ONCE AGAIN FANNING THE FLAMES OF A ROMANTIC FIRE *DESTINED* TO BE *DOOMED*, WE ARE STANDING IN FRONT OF THE SINGLE MOST *POWERFUL* WEAPON IN THE UNIVERSE.
ALL LIFE AS WE KNOW IT IS CONNECTED TO THIS LANTERN.
NEKRON ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY *IT* AND THEREFORE TRIGGER THE ANNIHILATION OF EVERYTHING TIED TO IT, BUT FOR SOMEONE TO ACTUALLY *WIELD* THIS POWER.
IT'S UNTHINKABLE.
WHICH IS WHY *YOU* COULDN'T LIFT IT. IT KNEW BETTER.
I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.

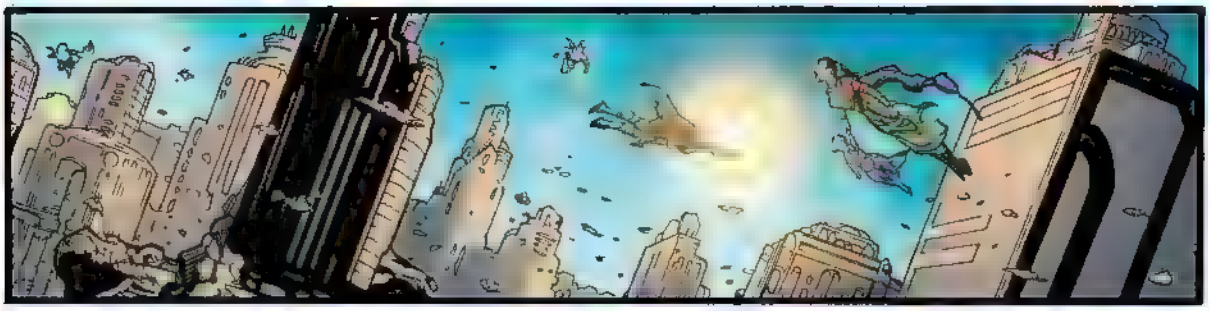
HERE.
MAYBE WE BOTH CAN--
I'M NOT LEAVING THIS TO YOU TWO. YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT.
SINESTRO, LET GO!
THIS KIND OF POWER CANNOT BE PUT IN IRRESPONSIBLE HANDS.
OR PSYCHOTIC ONES.
HAL. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING--!

HELP ME
LIDE!

EVERYBODY GET BACK!
AQUAMAN?
ARGHHHH!
FIND THEM.
FIND WHO? AQUAMAN?
FIND THEM.

THE PREDATOR.
OPHIDIAN.
ADARA.
WHAT ARE THESE?
PROSELYTE.
THE ENTITIES.
THE BUTCHER.


"ION."
SPACE SECTOR 1760.
THE PLANET DAMAR AND ITS SUN.

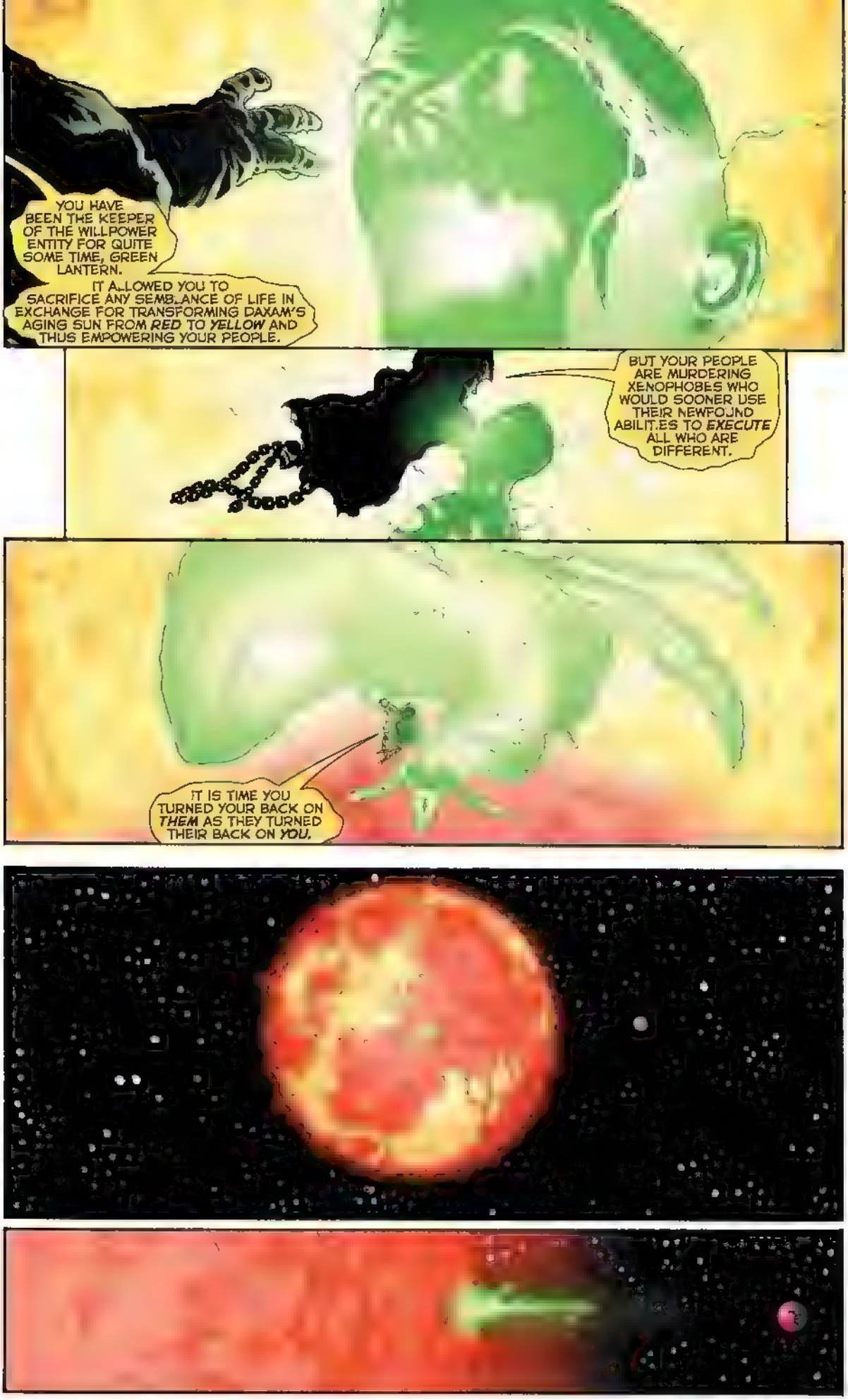


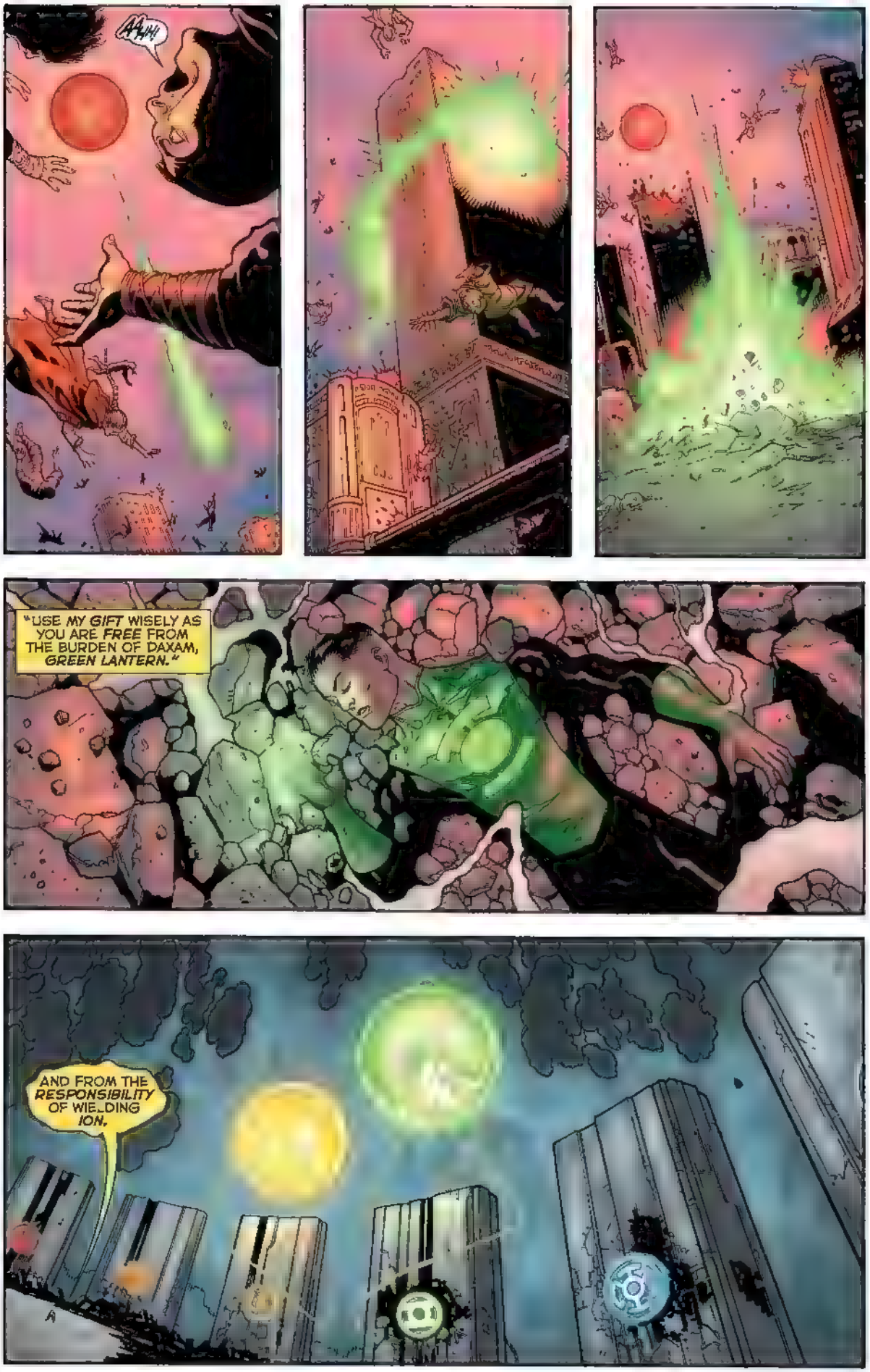
SODAM YAT.
THE PROPHECY SAID YOU WOULD BE THE *LAST* TO FALL DURING THE BLACKEST NIGHT, BUT THE PROPHECY WAS WRITTEN UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THE UNIVERSE WOULD *DIE*.
IT HAS *NOT*.

AND WITH ME TO *PROTECT* IT, IT *WILL* NOT.

YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

KRUNCH


YOU HAVE BEEN THE KEEPER OF THE WILLPOWER ENTITY FOR QUITE SOME TIME, GREEN LANTERN.
IT ALLOWED YOU TO SACRIFICE ANY SEMBLANCE OF LIFE IN EXCHANGE FOR TRANSFORMING DAXAM'S AGING SUN FROM *RED* TO *YELLOW* AND THUS EMPOWERING YOUR PEOPLE.
BUT YOUR PEOPLE ARE MURDERING XENOPHOBES WHO WOULD SOONER USE THEIR NEWFOUND ABILITIES TO *EXECUTE* ALL WHO ARE DIFFERENT.
IT IS TIME YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON *THEM* AS THEY TURNED THEIR BACK ON *YOU.*

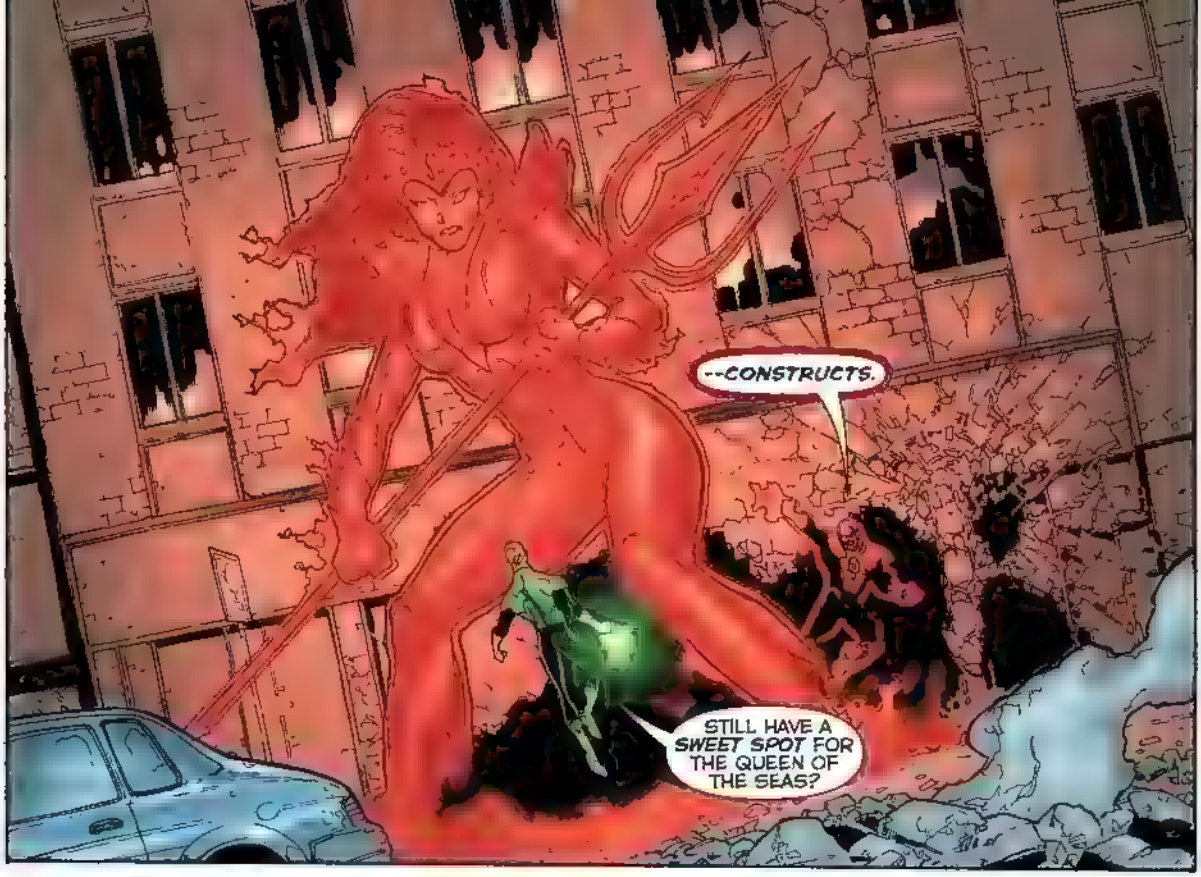

AAHH!
"USE MY GIFT WISELY AS YOU ARE FREE FROM THE BURDEN OF DAXAM, GREEN LANTERN."
AND FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WIELDING ION.

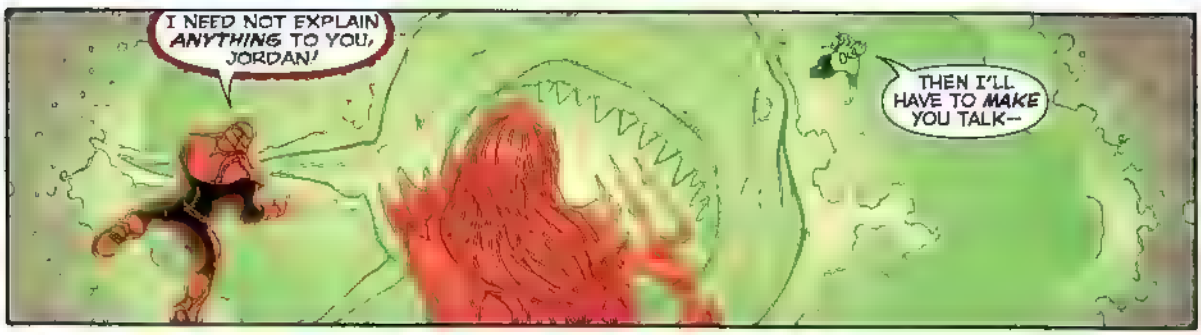
SO THE WHITE LANTERN SHOWED US THE PEOPLE IT RESURRECTED *WHY?*
IT *SPOKE.*
I KNOW IT SPOKE, BUT--
IT SPOKE OF THE *ENTITIES*, JORDAN. IT'S ASKING US TO *FIND* THEM.
WHY? WHERE *ARE* THEY? LANTERN--
ARRGHH!
ATROCITUS WILL HELP.
WHERE *ARE* WE?
NEW YORK.
HE-HE SAVED US FROM THOSE PUNKS. HE COOKED *THEM ALIVE.*
I CAN SEE THEIR AURAS, HAL. THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE SAVED ARE LOVED BY MANY. LOVE WAS PROTECTED.
BY *WHO?*

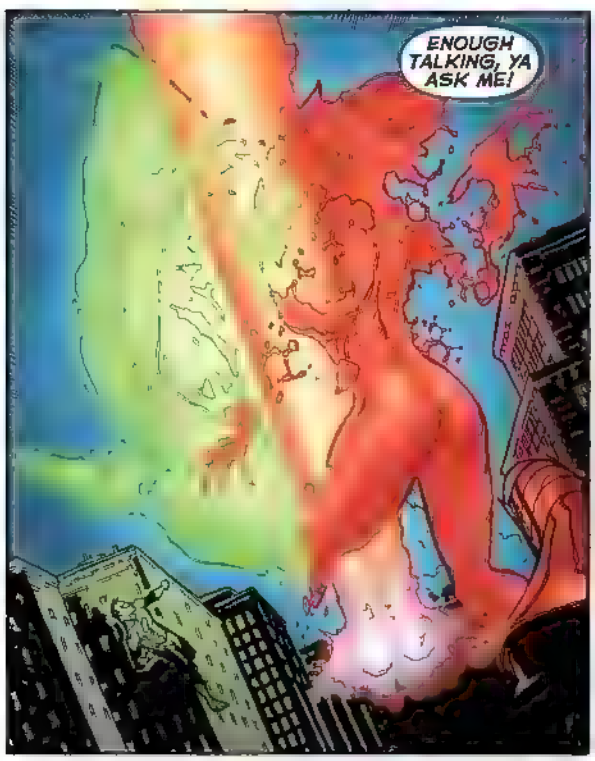
RRRFFF.
I SACRIFICE THE LIQUID OF LIFE TO YOU, UNIVERSE, AGAIN ASKING YOU TO SHOW ME WHAT IS NOT SHOWN
WHERE ARE THE ENTITIES?
KRRAAATCH!
PARALLAX... ION...THEY AREN'T HERE--

ASKING THE UNIVERSE QUESTIONS AGAIN BY SPILLING BLOOD?
THAT'S A NO-NO, RED. ESPECIALLY ON MY HOME TURF.
I DEFERRED TO YOUR TERRESTRIAL LAWS, JORDAN.
I USED LETHAL FORCE ONLY IN DEFENDING INNOCENTS.
AND THEN FEEDING THEM TO YOUR CAT?
KRAKOOM!
GO GET SOME MEOW MIX, GARFIELD.
HAL, I CAN SENSE ATROCITUS' SINCERITY. THERE'S A SPARK OF LOVE IN HIS HEART THAT WASN'T THERE--
I HAVE NO LOVE!

I HAVE ONLY RAGE!
YOUR FREE PASS BACK TO YSMAULT IS BEING REVOKED.
I HAVE LEARNED THINGS, JORDAN.
THINGS ABOUT THE BALANCE OF THE UNIVERSE, THE SACRED MISSION I AM UNDERTAKING AND--


--CONSTRUCTS.
STILL HAVE A SWEET SPOT FOR THE QUEEN OF THE SEAS?


I NEED NOT EXPLAIN ANYTHING TO YOU, JORDAN!
THEN I'LL HAVE TO MAKE YOU TALK--


ENOUGH TALKING, YA ASK ME!

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT...

...WHO'S UP FOR A BIG, BAD FIGHT?
RRFFF

GREEN LANTERN 55 Cover by Doug Mahnke, Christian Alamy & Randy Mayor

THE NEW GUARDIANS
CHAPTER THREE

Doug Mahnke Pencils
Christian Alamy, Tom Nguyen, Keith Champagne & Doug Mahnke Inks

GRASS RANGE, MONTANA.
STAY AWAY
I FEEL YOUR RAGE, ENTITY.

THE SPECTRE A.K.A. CRISPUS ALLEN
POWERS: An undead soul blended with the Spirit of Vengeance in possession of near limitless power to judge and execute those deemed guilty
BUT YOU WILL SOON FEEL MINE.

NEW YORK CITY
I FORGOT HOW MUCH I LOVED THIS JOB.
A BOUNTY WAITIN' TA BE COLLECTED, A HEAD BEGGIN' TA BE BUSTED AND A GREEN LANTERN SUCKIN' ON MY TAILPIPE.
RRRRRF

YOUR NAME ATROCITUS?
WHO WANTS TO KNOW?
KRAAKKOO
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A BIG "YES." THE GUY WHO PUT A CONTRACT OUT ON YER UGLY MUG WANTS T' REMAIN ANONYMOUS. ALSO SAID HE WANTED YOU ON HIS DOORSTEP DEAD OR ALIVE. SO WHAT'S IT GONNA BE, UGLY?
BABUM
YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST TO TRY TO COLLECT THIS BOUNTY, NOR WILL YOU BE THE LAST.
RIGHT.

DEAD IT IS.
KRAKK
TOUR'S OVER, EVERYBODY!
NEW YORK
SAFE HAVEN TOURS

THAT'S LOBO?
YEAH. HE'S A BAD GUY, RIGHT?
INTERGALACTIC BOUNTY HUNTER. ONE OF THE ONLY "PEOPLE" I'VE EVER SEEN GIVE SUPERMAN A BLOODY NOSE.
SO WHO ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING?
LOBO OR ATROCITUS?
ATROCITUS HAS YOJR MISSION, HAL JORDAN.
I CAN STILL HEAR THE WHITE LANTERN, CAROL. GUESS IT HAS AN OPINION.
WELL, WHAT'D IT SAY? HAL?!
GRRRR
MY MOM ALWAYS SAID B KES WERE DANGEROUS.
LET'S SEE IF SHE WAS RIGHT.
WWWRRR

HEY, SQUARE JAW!
GET THE FRAG OFF MY--!
--OOFFF!
NO BOUNTY HUNTING ON EARTH. NO DESTRUCTION OF PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY. NO MAIMING OR KILLING.
AND NO FUN.
C'MON, LOBO. YOU KNOW THE RULES BY NOW.
I AIN'T EVER BEEN MUCH FER RULES.
ME NEITHER.

LOBO.
YOUR REPUTATION-- AND YOUR ODOR-- PRECEDES YOU.
THOUGH I TRUST EVEN SOMEONE AS RECKLESS AS YOU RECOGNIZES THE DANGERS IN CROSSING SINESTRO'S PATH.
FAREWELL, CZARNIAN.
NGNNGNG
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
FEETAL'S GIZZ! YA CAN'T SWING A DEAD CAT WITHOUT HITTIN' SOMEONE WEARIN' A POWER RING ANYMORE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOD ATE A RAINBOW AND THREW IT UP ACROSS THE UNIVERSE -

--BUT I'M GONNA FIND OUT SO I CAN SHOVE IT BACK DOWN HIS THROAT! YOU FLYING GLOW FARES HAVE BEEN CLOGGING UP THE PLACE--
--AND IT AIN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR ALL A' US!
AGREED.

LET'S SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING BEHIND THE CHAINS AND THE ATTITUDE.
TALK FAST, ATROCITUS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON EARTH?
ARRR
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU, MUTT.
YOU SEALED LOBO IN YOUR HALLUCINATION-INDUCING CRYSTAL?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT SEDATE HIM. YOU'VE BEEN ENCASED IN THE SAPPHIRE CRYSTAL BEFORE. IT SHOWS YOU YOUR GREATEST LOVE, WHICH IN YOUR CASE I'D GUESS WAS A MIRROR.
YES.
A MIRROR.
HOW HUMOROUS.
I AM NOT HERE FOR WAR, JORDAN. I AM HERE TO SAVE MY ENTITY AND THEREFORE SAVE LIFE.
I AM HERE TO FIND THE BUTCHER.
"BEFORE THE EVIL THAT HAS ALREADY CLAIMED PARALLAX AND ION DOES."
LAS. VEGAS.
HOW NICE.
Welcome To Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA
"THE ENTITIES? THEY'RE HERE ON EARTH?"

THANKS FOR THE PEEP SHOW, PINKY.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I REALLY LOVE, LISTEN UP.
YOU WERE LISTENIN'.
WHO, ATROCITUS? WHO'S HUNTING THE ENTITIES?
I DO NOT KNOW. SOMEONE BAD.
SOMEONE "BAD"? CAN YOU NARROW IT DOWN?
HELLO...

BAD'S RELATIVE.
BUT THAT'S NOT SOMETHIN' SOMEONE LIKE GREEN LANTERN UNDERSTANDS. EVEN WITH ALL THESE COLORS BUZZIN' AROUND LIKE FLIES ON #$%@ ALL HE SEES IS BLACK AND WHITE.
HERE'S A DOSE OF REALITY, HANDSOME.
THE ONLY ONE THAT SEES THIS UNIVERSE FOR WHAT IT IS IS MY MUTT OVER THERE. THERE'S NO GOOD GUYS OR BAD GUYS.
IT ALL AIN'T NOTH'N' BUT GRAYS.
YOU COMIN' QUIETLY NOW, ATROCITUS, OR--
HSSSSSS!!
WHAT THE #@%&?!
SIC 'EM.
GOOD KITTY
BABUM

RRARRRK
SSSS!
YIPP
YIPP
STOP RUNNIN' LIKE A GIRL AND BITE THAT FREAKIN'--AAKKK!
YOU'RE LECTURING ME ABOUT GRAYS, LOBO? I WATCHED MY CITY DIE.
YOU STILL CRYIN' OVER THAT?
MAYBE THIS PLACE HAS GOT A TISSUE.

THIS ISN'T A JOKE, LOBO!
GOOD OR BAD, NO ONE ELSE IS GOING TO GO THROUGH WHAT I DID. NO ONE IS GOING TO GET HURT BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS!
AND THAT MEANS, FOR THE TIME BEING (GOD, HELP ME)--
--YOU ATTACK ONE OF US, YOU ATTACK ALL OF US.
SO WHAT'S IT GONNA BE? A WAR--
--OR A DAY OFF?
YEAH. I'M THE ONE WITH SCREWED UP PRIORITIES.
WHATEVER...
YIPP!

...I GOT BETTER THINGS TA DO ANYWAY.
YOU OKAY?
SOMETHING'S UP WITH LOBO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MAYBE HE WAS BORED. MAYBE HE HAD ANOTHER AGENDA FOR BEING HERE. I DON'T KNOW. I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO LEAVE THAT EASY.
YOU CALL THIS EASY?
HE DIDN'T LEAVE BECAUSE HE WAS BORED OR HAD ANOTHER AGENDA. HE LEFT BECAUSE OF YOU, JORDAN.
ME?
WHETHER LOBO WOULD ADMIT IT OR NOT, I THINK YOU FRIGHTENED HIM.
MAYBE THERE'S STILL A LITTLE OF PARALLAX LEFT DEEP DOWN INSIDE.
IGNORE HIM, HAL.
I WISH I COULD, BUT HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL HE LEARNS MORE ABOUT THE POWER BEHIND THE WHITE LANTERN. AND IF THE ENTITIES ARE BEING HUNTED, WE'RE GOING TO NEED ATROCITUS.
SO WE'RE STUCK WITH THEM? WHAT ARE THE GUARDIANS GOING TO SAY?
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL THEM.
BUT HAL--
YOU KNOW THE DAMAGE THESE ENTITIES CAN CAUSE. AND THIS TIME THERE'S MORE THAN ONE.
BUT WE CAN HOPE, RIGHT?
HOPE?
MAYBE THE ENTITIES ARE LIKE THE CORPS, HAL.

"MAYBE THEY AREN'T ALL BAD?"
PRRRRRRR
GOOD KITTY
MAY THE CRIMSON LIGHT GUIDE YOU ON YOUR OWN MISSION
HEY, ATROCITUS!
THE NEXT TIME WE'RE GONNA PUT ON A SHOW, KEEP THAT CAT OUTTA THIS. HE NEARLY CLAWED MY DOG'S EYES OUT.
ARRK
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT TIME, LOBO. THE JOB IS OVER.
WHY YOU WANTED TO TRY AND GET THOSE RINGSLINGERS TO SIDE WITH YOU--
I HAVE MY REASONS. I'VE PAID FOR YOUR SERVICES.
NOW GO AWAY.
SURE. I'LL GO AWAY.
RRRRRR
DON'T GROWL AT IT, BOY. JUST A LITTLE SAFETY NET FOR A RAINY DAY. BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--
--IF YA CAN'T BEAT 'EM, JOIN' EM.

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GREEN LANTERN 56 Cover by Doug Mahnke & Hi-Fi

THE NEW GUARDIANS
CHAPTER FOUR

Doug Mahnke Pencils
Christian Alamy, Tom Nguyen, Keith Champagne & Doug Mahnke Inks

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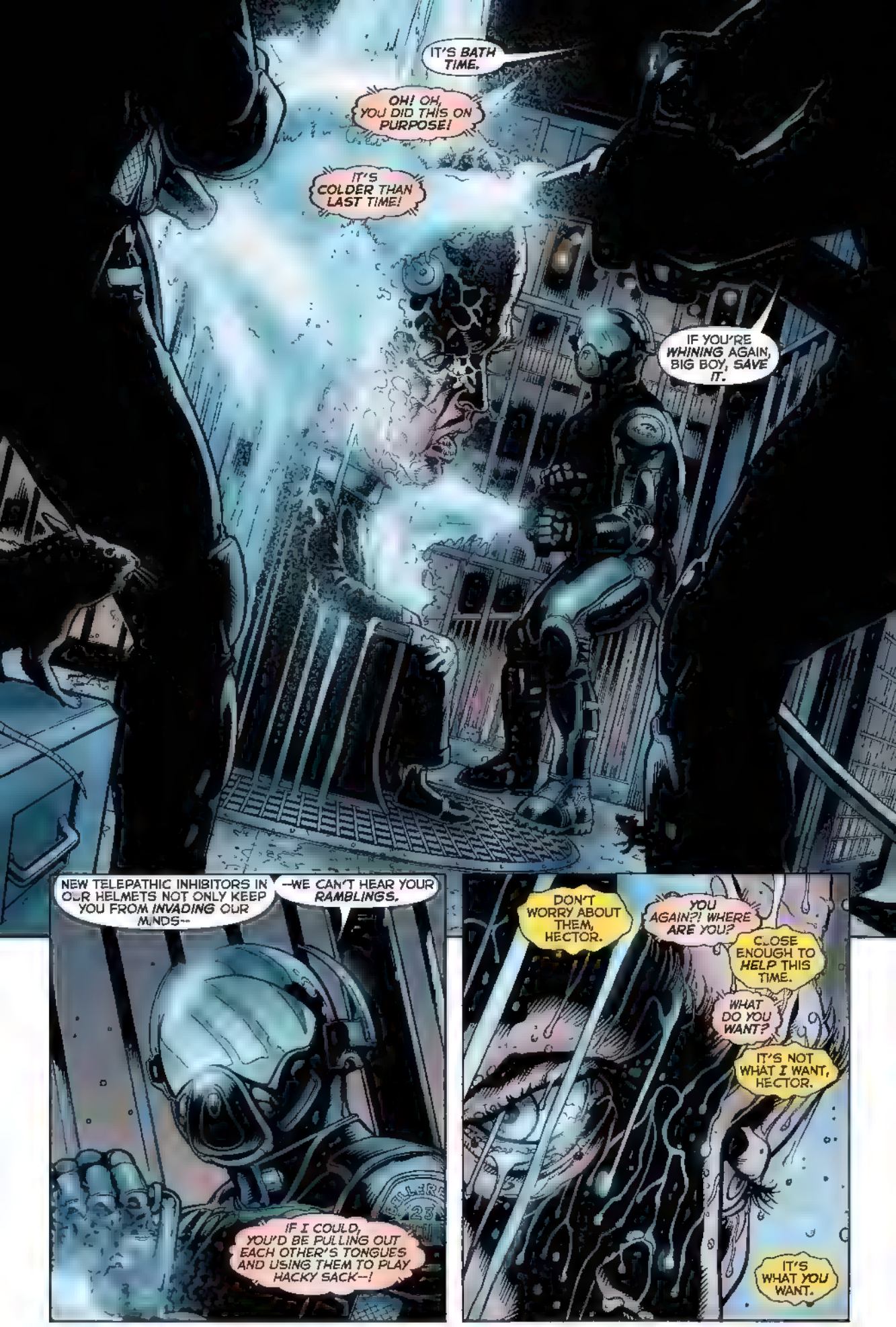
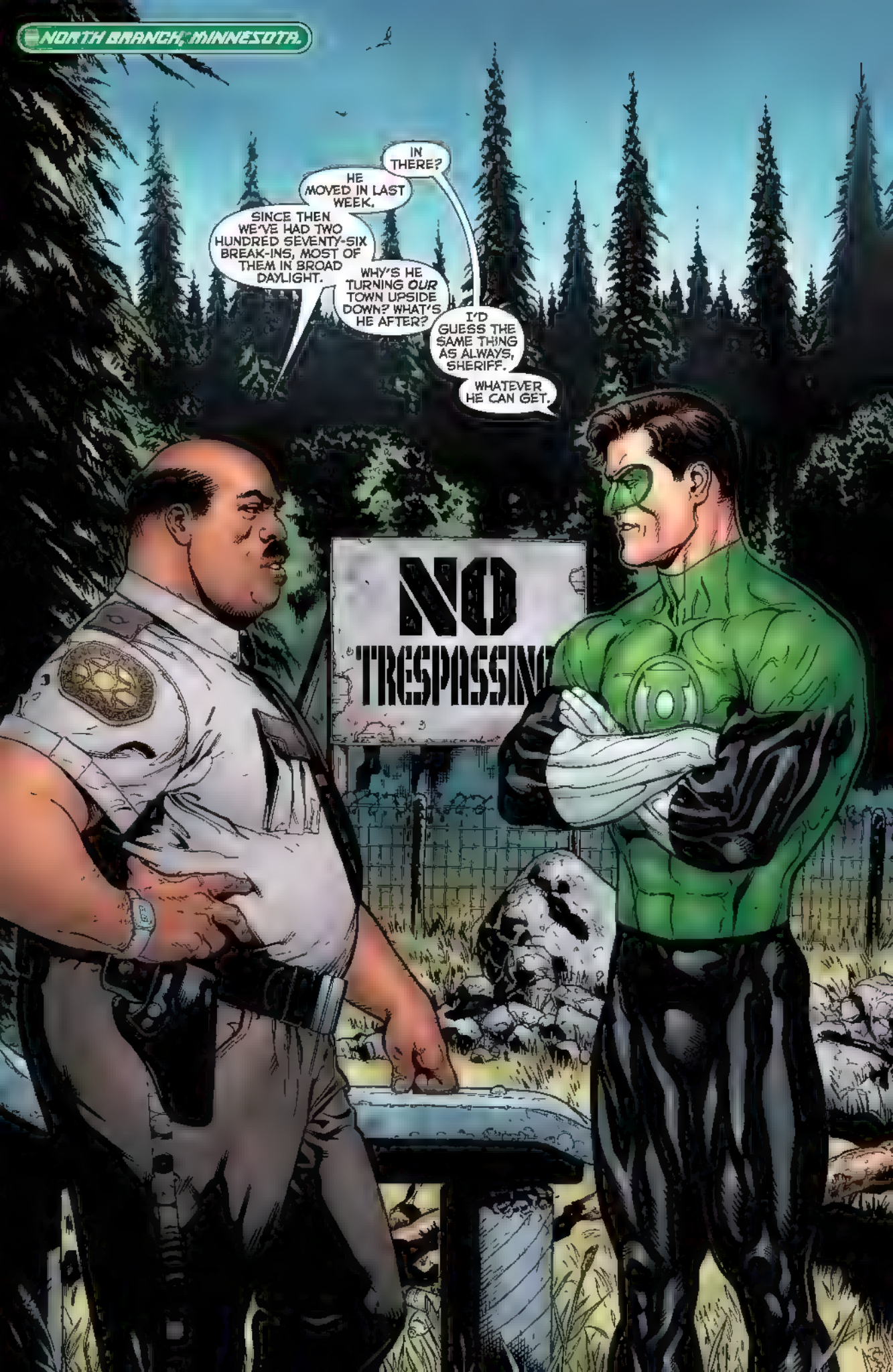
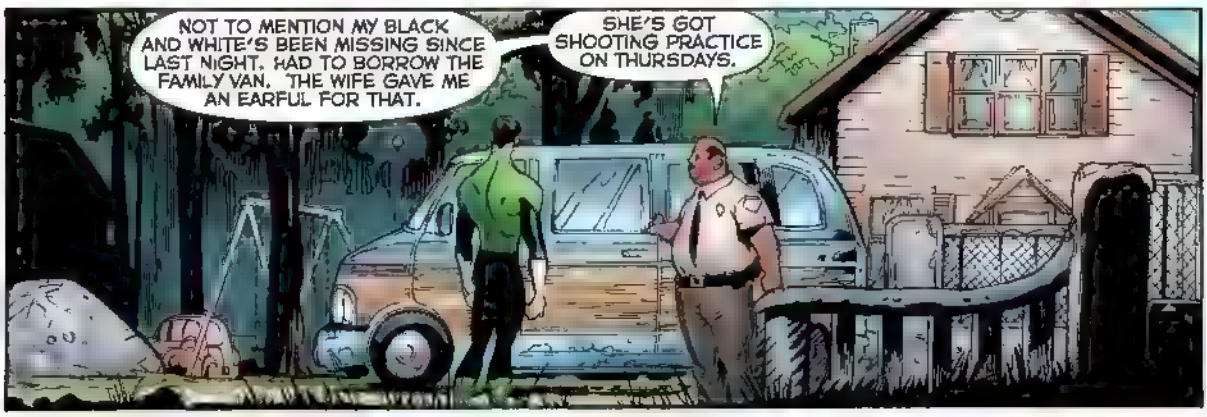
TERREBONNE PARISH, LOUISIANA.
BELLE REVE PRISON.
HECTOR HAMMOND
...HAL JORDAN...WE MEET AGAIN... WE...
HECTOR, SAVE ME FROM THAT MONSTER!
STAND BACK, CAROL. I'LL HANDLE THIS!
OH, CAROL.
OH, HECTOR.
YOU'RE ALL I WANT.
WAAGHH!
WAKE UP, HAMMOND!


IT'S BATH TIME.
OH! OH, YOU DID THIS ON PURPOSE!
IT'S COLDER THAN LAST TIME!
IF YOU'RE WHINING AGAIN, BIG BOY, SAVE IT.
NEW TELEPATHIC INHIBITORS IN OUR HELMETS NOT ONLY KEEP YOU FROM INVADING OUR MINDS--
--WE CAN'T HEAR YOUR RAMBLINGS.
IF I COULD, YOU'D BE PULLING OUT EACH OTHER'S TONGUES AND USING THEM TO PLAY HACKY SACK--!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM, HECTOR.
YOU AGAIN?! WHERE ARE YOU?
CLOSE ENOUGH TO HELP THIS TIME.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IT'S NOT WHAT I WANT, HECTOR.
IT'S WHAT YOU WANT.

YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME AND, IN TURN, I'M GOING TO HELP YOU.
WHY?
BECAUSE I'M PERFORMING A MAGNIFICENT EXPERIMENT THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE HOW THE UNIVERSE FEELS.
WHO ARE YOU?
A FRIEND.
YOU HAVE FRIENDS ALL AROUND YOU.
CHEE
CHEE
AAAAAA!!
CHEE
CHEE
CHEE
NOW GO, HECTOR.
GO GET WHAT YOU WANT.

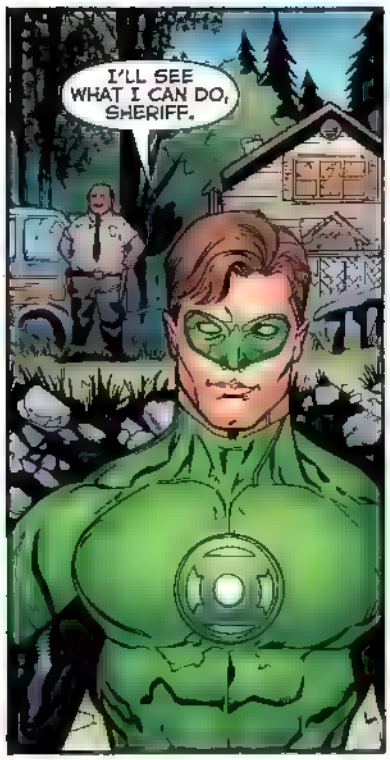

NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA.
IN THERE?
HE MOVED IN LAST WEEK.
SINCE THEN WE'VE HAD TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX BREAK-INS, MOST OF THEM IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.
WHY'S HE TURNING *OUR* TOWN UPSIDE DOWN? WHAT'S HE AFTER?
I'D GUESS THE SAME THING AS ALWAYS, SHERIFF.
WHATEVER HE CAN GET.
NO
TRESPASSING

WAS IT LARFLEEZE DOING ALL THE BREAK-INS?
AND THOSE ORANGE GHOSTS OF HIS.
THEY'RE CONSTRUCTS.
WHATEVER THEY WERE THEY RANSACKED HOMES AND STORES AND EVEN PUBLIC RESTROOMS. THEY FLEW OFF WITH EVERYTHING THAT WASN'T NAILED DOWN.

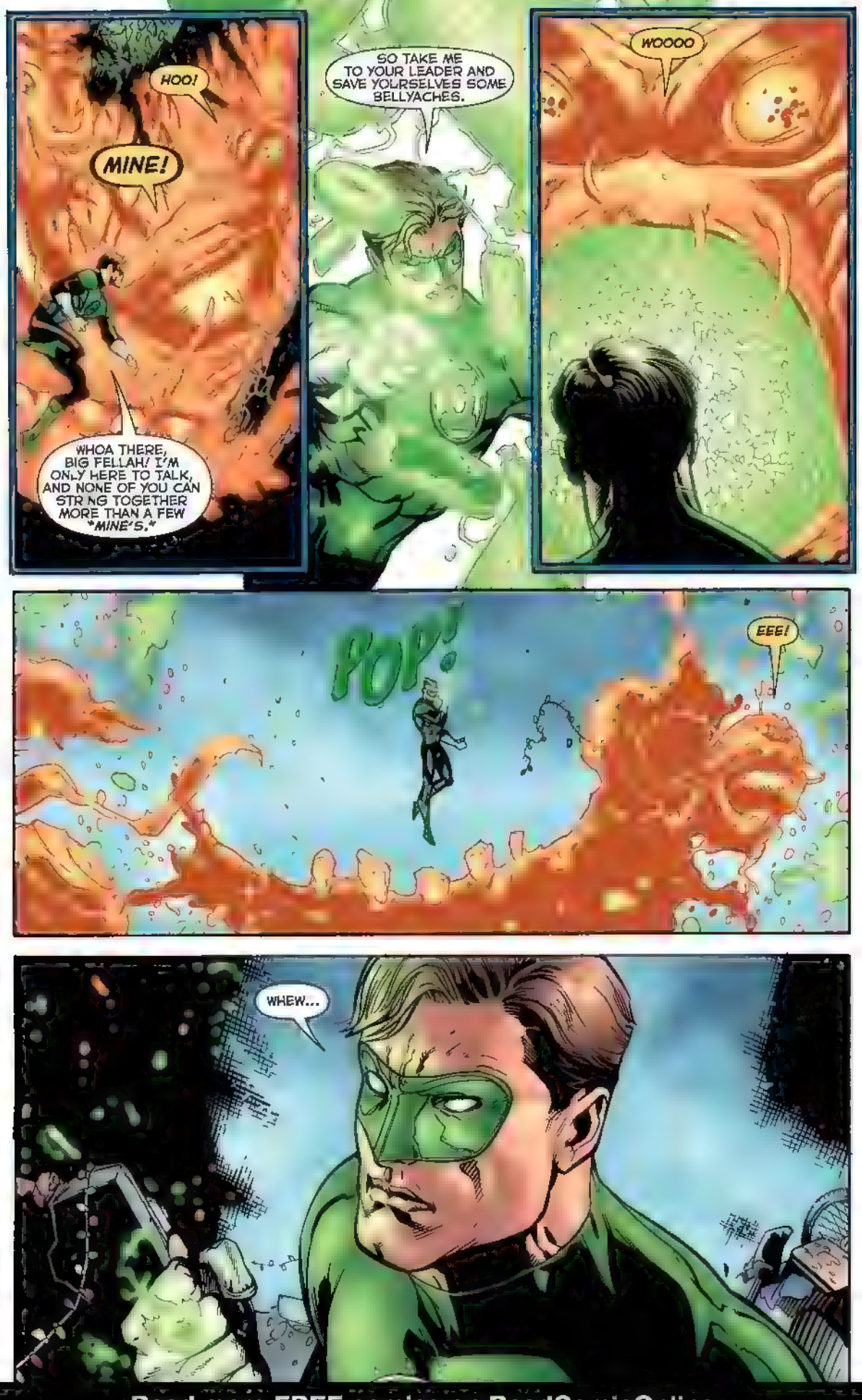

NOT TO MENTION MY BLACK AND WHITE'S BEEN MISSING SINCE LAST NIGHT. HAD TO BORROW THE FAMILY VAN. THE WIFE GAVE ME AN EARFUL FOR THAT.
SHE'S GOT SHOOTING PRACTICE ON THURSDAYS.

YOU TELL HIM THIS IS COUNTY PROPERTY, GREEN LANTERN. HE CAN'T STAY HERE!
AND, UM, IF YOU COULD... ONE MORE THING.

IF YOU SEE A PINK FLAMINGO... MY WIFE BOUGHT IT ON OUR LAST TRIP TO FLORIDA. I HATE THE DAMN THING, BUT SHE LOVES IT.
SENTIMENTAL REASONS.


I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, SHERIFF.

RING? SCAN THE AREA FOR ANY TRACES OF OTHER...
...COLORS?
WARNING. AVARICE DETECTED AND CLOSING IN.
HEY, GUYS.
LITTLE EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS, ISN'T IT?
EH!
HEE!


HOO!
MINE!
WHOA THERE, BIG FELLAH! I'M ONLY HERE TO TALK, AND NONE OF YOU CAN STR NG TOGETHER MORE THAN A FEW "MINE'S."
SO TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER AND SAVE YOURSELVES SOME BELLYACHES.
WOOOO
POP!
EEE!
WHEW...

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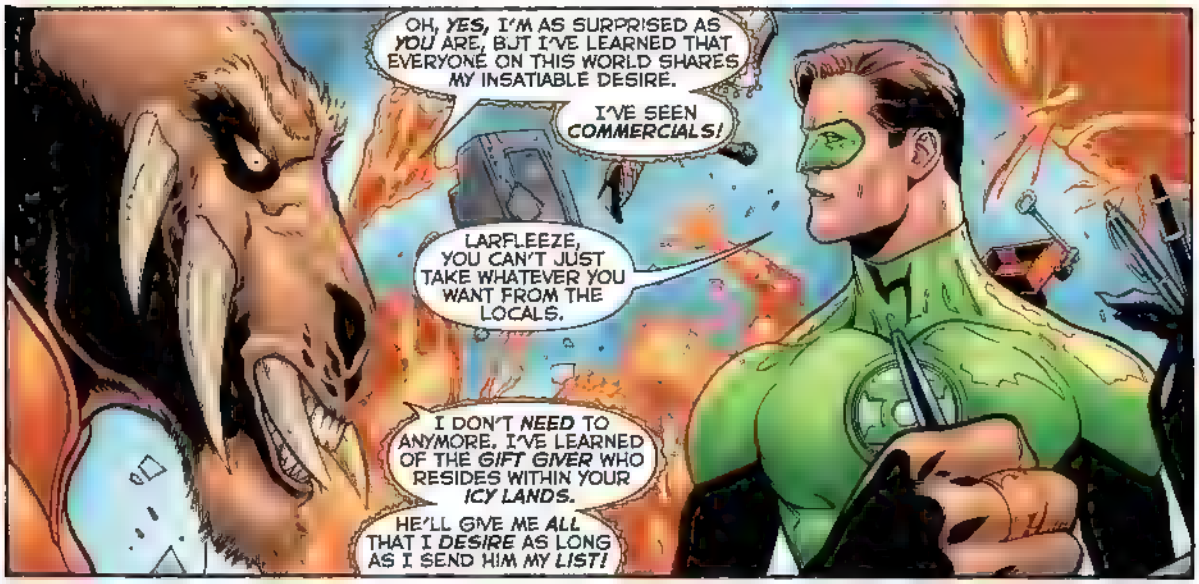
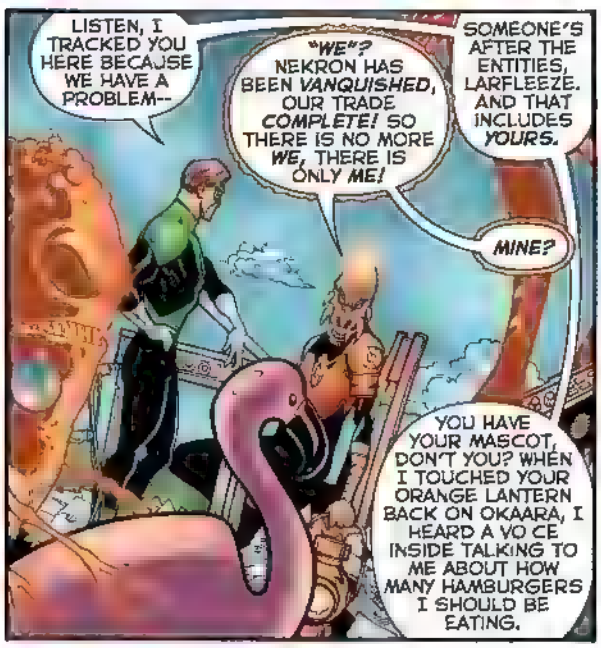
I GUESS I JUST HAD TO FOLLOW THE SMELL.

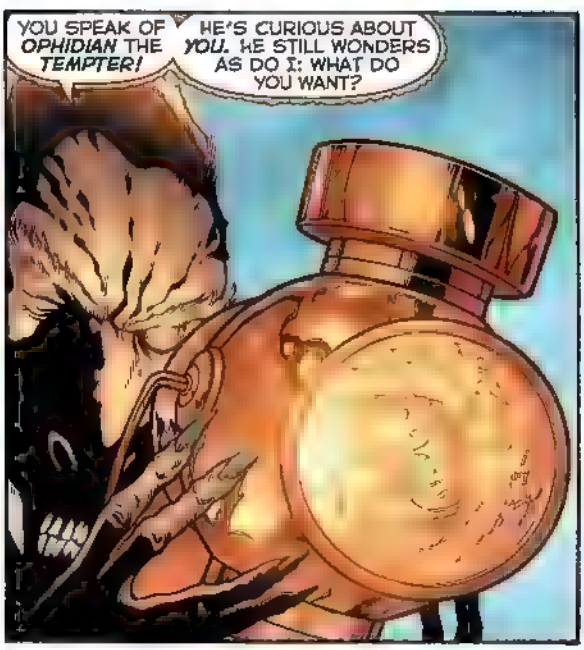
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LARFLEEZE?
WHAT'S IT *LOOK* LIKE I'M DOING? I'M *WRITING.*
NOW GO AWAY, GREEN LANTERN. I'M *VERY* BUSY.
NO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING *HERE?* ON *EARTH?*
I *LIVE* HERE.
OH, NO. NO, YOU DON'T. YOU LIVE IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.
AND THAT'S THE WAY I *LIKE* IT.
HEE!
WELL, I LIVE HERE NOW. AND *YOU'RE* TRESPASSING.


OH, YES, I'M AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE, BUT I'VE LEARNED THAT EVERYONE ON THIS WORLD SHARES MY INSATIABLE DESIRE.
I'VE SEEN COMMERCIALS!
LARFLEEZE, YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT FROM THE LOCALS.
I DON'T NEED TO ANYMORE. I'VE LEARNED OF THE GIFT GIVER WHO RESIDES WITHIN YOUR ICY LANDS.
HE'LL GIVE ME ALL THAT I DESIRE AS LONG AS I SEND HIM MY LIST!

I KNOW ABOUT SANTA CLAUS!

I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, GONZO, BUT SANTA CLAUS ISN'T REAL.
BAH! YOU THINK I'M THAT INEPT?! THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF EVIDENCE TO ARGUE OTHERWISE RIGHT UNDERNEATH US!
NEXT YOU'LL TELL ME THE COLOR GREEN DOESN'T EXIST!
WHEN I FINALLY MEET THIS WELL-FED REINDEER WRANGLER, I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING I WANT! HE'LL BE BETTER THAN ANY GUARDIAN!
AND WHERE'S THE GUARDIAN YOU ALREADY ENSLAVED? WHERE'S SAYD?
...SHE'S ON AN ERRAND.


LISTEN, I TRACKED YOU HERE BECAUSE WE HAVE A PROBLEM--
"WE"? NEKRON HAS BEEN VANQUISHED, OUR TRADE COMPLETE! SO THERE IS NO MORE WE, THERE IS ONLY ME!
SOMEONE'S AFTER THE ENTITIES, LARFLEEZE. AND THAT INCLUDES YOURS.
MINE?
YOU HAVE YOUR MASCOT, DON'T YOU? WHEN I TOUCHED YOUR ORANGE LANTERN BACK ON OKAARA, I HEARD A VO CE INSIDE TALKING TO ME ABOUT HOW MANY HAMBURGERS I SHOULD BE EATING.


YOU SPEAK OF OPHIDIAN THE TEMPTER!
HE'S CURIOUS ABOUT YOU. HE STILL WONDERS AS DO I: WHAT DO YOU WANT?

RIGHT NOW, I JUST WANT TO DO MY JOB. PROTECT MY PLANET FROM ALIEN THREATS. FOUR OF THE OTHER ENTITIES ARE LOOSE ON EARTH.
WHAT DO THESE ENTITIES DO?
HOPEFULLY NOT MUCH BEFORE CAROL AND THE OTHERS FIND THEM. OF COURSE, THE QUESTION WAS RAISED--
WHEN WE DO FIND THEM, JORDAN, WHAT'S THE PLAN THEN?
ASK THEM TO COME QUIETLY?
I NEED YOU TO TELL ME HOW YOU IMPRISONED OPHIDIAN IN YOUR LANTERN SO WE CAN IMPRISON THE OTHERS.
HOO!
I NEED SOMETHING TOO!
NOT HIM.
KRAAASHHH
MY LANTERN!

I NEED YOU TO TELL ME HOW TO GET OPHIDIAN OUT!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE NESTLED UP SAFE AND SOUND IN BELLE REVE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, HECTOR?
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING, HAL!
YOU'RE AFTER IT TOO, AREN'T YOU? THE ORANGE LANTERN! WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT IT?
WHO TOLD YOU WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOU? TO YOU?!?
WAS IT THE LITTLE VOICE?
WHAT VOICE?
YOU HAVE THE LOOKS! THE GIRL! THE RING!
OH, WHY DON'T YOU LET ME HAVE ANYTHING?!
WHY CAN'T LIFE BE A LITTLE MORE FAIR!?
LET GO!!
YOU LET GO, TALKING HEAD!

DAMMIT, LARFLEEZE! I'M HAVING A HARD ENOUGH TIME WITH HECTOR DIGGING INTO MY BRAIN FOR PINUP SHOTS OF CAROL! CALL OFF YOUR LANTERNS!
NOT UNTIL YOU RELEASE MY PROPERTY!
YOU ARE A TERRIBLY GROTESQUE CREATURE. LIKE ME.
I WANT TO BE SOMETHING ELSE.
AND I WANT THE GIRL.
WHAT DO YOU TRULY WANT, CREATURE? WHAT DRIVES YOU TO HOARD THINGS THE WAY YOU DO?
ARRGHH!
SHOW ME!

"SHOW ME YOUR SECRETS!"
NANDA PARBAT.
CHARLES VICTOR SZASZ OF EARTH.
WE CONDEMN THE DESECRATION OF YOUR BODY, BUT WE CONDONE THE ELEVATION OF YOUR SPIRIT AND HOPE YOU EMBRACE THE LIGHT AS IT EMBRACES YOU.
KNOW YOUR SENSE OF PERSONAL JUSTICE EMBODIED BY THE QUESTION LIVES ON IN YOUR FRIEND. MAY THE PEACE YOU FINALLY FOUND AT THE END OF YOUR LIFE BE WITH YOU.
ALL WILL BE WELL.
YOUR FRIEND WAS THE LAST TO BE RETURNED TO HIS RESTING SITE, BUT REST ASSURED DESPITE HIS BODY'S BE NG VIOLATED BY THE BLACK RINGS HE NEVER SUFFERED--
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT, SAINT WALKER?
"ALL WILL BE WELL"?

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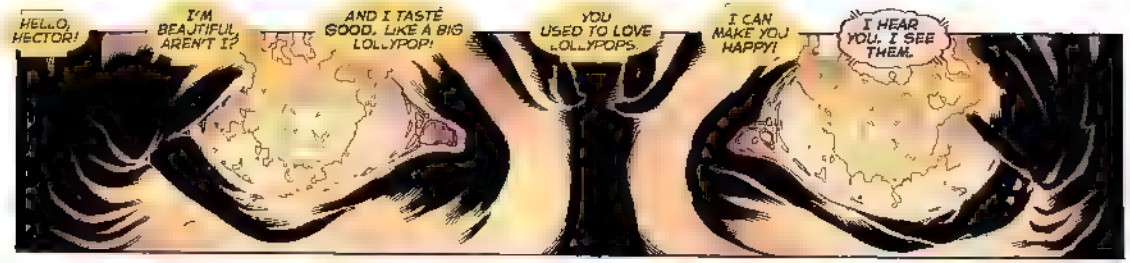
YES. BUT FROM YOJR TONE, I SENSE SKEPTICISM. DO YOU WISH ME TO REMOVE IT?
WHAT?
THE BLUE LIGHT WITHIN MY RING REACTS TO THOSE I TARGET. IT IGNITES EVEN THE DIMMEST FLICKER OF HOPE.
THAT'S WHAT CHARLIE GAVE ME WHEN I WAS CURLED UP IN THE BOTTOM OF A BOTTLE.
WE ALL HAVE MOMENTS OF DESPAIR, RENEE MONTOYA, BUT THERE IS ONE THING WE ALL HAVE AS WELL. TOMORROW.
TOMORROWS RUN OUT. CHARLIE'S RAN OUT.
YOUR MASK HIDES YOUR IDENTITY.
BUT IT ALSO HOLDS BACK YOUR TEARS.
AND SOMETIMES IT'S BEST TO RELEASE THEM.
"THE TIME FOR MOURNING WILL SOON BE OVER, RENEE MONTOYA. FOR EARTH HAS BEEN BLESSED.
"ADARA IS HERE."

"AND WE WILL SOON BEAR WITNESS TO A *MIRACLE.*"
YOU CAN'T GET OPHIDIAN OUT OF THE LANTERN! I'VE MADE *SURE* OF THAT!
IF I CAN'T GET OPHIDIAN *OUT* OF THE LANTERN...
...THEN I'LL TAKE THE WHOLE *THING!*
EEEE!!
CHOMPP


HELLO, HECTOR!
I'M BEAUTIFUL, AREN'T I?
AND I TASTE GOOD, LIKE A BIG LOLLYPOP!
YOU USED TO LOVE LOLLYPOPS.
I CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY!
I HEAR YOU. I SEE THEM.

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN.
MISSING!
MISS
NICOLE MO

MONTANA
HRRRRFF

LAS VEGAS.
THIS ONE.
HER.

NOK LEK, WILLIAM HAND.
NOK KLEK OT NORA.

OH, HECTOR! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED? A MAKEOVER.
YES, A MAKEOVER!
AND A CONVERTIBLE. CAROL LOVES CONVERTIBLES.
BUT RED OR BLACK? BETTER GET BOTH TO MAKE SURE!

HE ATE IT! HE ATE WHAT'S MINE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HECTOR?
IT'S NOT HIM I'M WORRIED ABOUT! IT'S OPHIDIAN!

HE'S FREE!
OH, LARFLEEZE.

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GRE ANE 57 Cover by Doug Mahnke & Hi-Fi

THE NEW GUARDIANS
CHAPTER FIVE

Doug Mahnke Pencils
Christian Alamy, Tom Nguyen, Keith Champagne & Doug Mahnke Inks

FRONT BRANCH, MINNESOTA.
I'M AFRAID I MAY HAVE NOT BEEN ENTIRELY HONEST ABOUT MY OWNERSHIP OF THE ORANGE LANTERN.
OPHIDIAN AND I HAVE A RATHER ANTAGONISTIC RELATIONSHIP.
I HADN'T NOTICED.
WELL, HE STARTED IT.
UH, HUH.
I SWEAR!
LARFLEEZE!
IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE OWNED AND USED.
PERHAPS AS A PAIR OF FUR SLIPPERS FOR MY FEET!
THAT DOESN'T SOUND APPEALING SO PERHAPS NOT!

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YOU WERE THE ONLY BEING IN THE UNIVERSE CAPABLE OF RESISTING MY TEMPTATIONS. YOU ARE NOTHING BUT WANT. AND THEREFORE YOU...ENSLAVED ME.
FOR THAT YOU WILL BE DIGESTED AND TURNED INTO WASTE
EATING ALIENS, HECTOR?
THAT'S A LITTLE OVER-THE-TOP. EVEN FOR YOU.
YES.
FOR ME...FOR HECTOR
OH, I DON'T WANT THIS ALIEN! I NEVER WANTED ANY ALIENS!
I WANT CAROL!
NO TRESPASSING

WHERE'D HE--?
NO!
EEE!
NONONO NONO!
MY LANTERN!
ICANTLIVEWITHOUTIT!
BLINK
HECTOR SAID A VOICE SENT HIM HERE.
THE ENTITY THIEF?! OH!
SOMETHING'S BLOCKING MY RING FROM CONTACTING CAROL. I NEED TO GET TO HER BEFORE HECTOR DOES.
RING, CHART A COURSE FOR LAS VEGAS.
LAS VEGAS?
I'M COMING TOO!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

"TOO BAD!"
ZAMARON.
HOMEWORLD TO THE STAR SAPPHIRES
OUR LANTERN MAY BE REBUILT, BUT THE LIGHT CONTINUES TO DIM.
WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REBUILD THE CENTRA- POWER BATTERY, BUT WITHOUT A CORE OF UNDYING LOVE IT IS UNSUSTAINABLE.
WE HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT, QUEEN AGA'PO. WE MUST VENTURE TO EARTH AND RECOVER THE CRYSTALLIZED REMAINS OF KHUFU AND CHAY-ARA.
THEY PROVIDED A FOUNDATION THAT WAS EVER-LAST-NG AND THEY WILL DO SO AGAIN.
...MY QUEEN?
NO.
IT TOOK...YEARS TO FOSSILIZE THOSE REMAINS, AND EVEN IF WE RECOVERED THEM...THEY HAVE BEEN CORRUPTED BY THE BLACK RINGS.
THOSE SKELETONS WILL...NO LONGER PROVIDE THE NEVER-ENDING EMBER WE REQUIRE.
OUR STAR SAPPHIRES VENTURE ACROSS THE UNIVERSE, PROTECTING ANY LOVE THAT IS THREATENED. IF THE LIGHT DIES OUT, SO DO THEIR RINGS.
WHICH IS WHY I HAVE FED IT MY...IMMORTAL BEAUTY. I HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO KEEP THEM LIT...FOR THE MOMENT.
BUT A NEW POWER SOURCE MUST BE PLACED WITHIN THE LANTERN...BEFORE I AGE TO DUST.
DESPITE ITS VIOLENT NATURE, WE NEED TO FIND THE PREDATOR.
THERE IS NO NEED.

"THE STAR SAPPHIRE OF 2814 IS ALREADY HUNTING IT."
LAS VEGAS
GOD, I HATE THIS CITY.

--DUDE, THE WOMEN AROUND HERE ARE SO FREAKIN'-- WHOA!
HA HA HA HA HA
TOO BAD SHE WASN'T WEARING SOMETHING WHITE.
THESE STREETS NEED TO BE CLEANED UP.
AHHH!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
SOMEONE STOP LAUGHING AND THROW US A ROPE!
CAROL FERRIS OF EARTH...THIS IS QUEEN AGA'PO.
YOU MUST CONSERVE YOUR RING'S ENERGY.

THE VIOLET LANTERN IS NO LONGER FUNCTIONING. ITS ABILITY TO COLLECT LOVE FROM LIVING BEINGS IS IMPAIRED. IT REQUIRES A POWER SOURCE TO STABILIZE.
IT REQUIRES THE PREDATOR.
ACCORDING TO THE WHITE LANTERN SOMEONE IS HUNTING ALL OF THE ENTITIES.
THE OTHERS ARE NOT OUR CONCERN AT THE MOMENT, CAROL FERRIS. THE PREDATOR IS VITAL TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE STAR SAPPHIRES.
AND THE PREDATOR IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO ALL WHO ENCOUNTER IT.
"YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS ENTITY YOURSELF IN THE PAST.
"THE PREDATOR ATTEMPTED TO TAKE POSSESSION OF YOU, OUR MOST EXPERIENCED AND POWERFUL STAR SAPPHIRE."
EVEN NOW THE PREDATOR IS SEEKING OUT A HOST TO ENACT VIOLENCE.
WHY WOULD AN ENTITY THAT EMBODIES LOVE DO THAT?
"BECAUSE IT IS IN ITS NATURE.
"NOW FOLLOW THE RING, CAROL FERRIS."

"IT WILL GUIDE YOU TO THOSE THE PREDATOR THREATENS."
...AND JUST AN ORANGE JUICE FOR YOU, MA'AM?
THANK YOU, HON.
YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME.
KLIKK
KRNCH
ABRAHAM POINTE OF EARTH.